

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Lawrence Martyr Parish Church or Church of St. Lawrence

and/or common St. Lawrence Catholic Church

### 2. Location

street & number 2821 Jessup Road (Rt. 175 and B-W Parkway) SW Corner \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Jessup \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Anne Arundel

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Archdiocese of Baltimore

street & number 320 Cathedral St., telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore, state and zip code MD 21201

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County, MD liber 0533

street & number folio 0670  
475  
183

city, town state

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NONE

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-20

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built in 1866, St. Lawrence Catholic Church is a small, rectangular, Gothic Revival style, brick church with a gable roof. The exterior design is simple and restrained while the interior, reveals a higher style of Victorian decoration with an Italianate influence.

The church is built of brick laid in random common bond and rests on a reddish-brown foundation. Above the stone rises a brick foundation of 5 courses which is capped with a beveled watertable. Recessed brick panels with Gothic arches articulate the exterior wall surfaces of both the east and west elevations and are pierced with 5 Gothic style windows with stained glass.

The church is oriented with the gable front entrance facing north. The narthex, nave and chancel are part of the original church building with the sacristy added to the rear of the church in 1949.

The narthex extends slightly from the front of the church and has a gable roof. The brick side elevations of the narthex have recessed segmental arch panels. In the 1970s new glass doors were installed at the entrance. Italianate style door trim and wooden door were removed at this time as well as an ornate wooden steeple. Old photographs (in the possession of the church) reveal the details of the original entrance and steeple.

Just inside the church entrance is the narthex. There are white marble steps on the left which lead to a balcony. The floor of the narthex is also white marble, but it has been covered with a carpet. Both side walls of the narthex have marble wainscoting. It consists of a wide band of dark-rose colored marble above a narrow black slate chairrail molding. Below are alternating panels of brown and grey marble. In the center of the entire composition, there is one recessed panel of brown marble surrounded by a narrow molding of white marble. The baseboard is a light rose or peach colored marble. There is a small rose-colored marble font for holy water on the left side of the doorway leading into the nave of the church.

The church nave is organized around a central aisle leading to the chancel with pews on either side. At the rear of the nave is the balcony which contains the organ and some seating. The balcony is supported by two fluted cast iron columns on either side of the aisle.

The walls of the nave are decorated with a very ornate wainscoting. It is wood and is four and one-half feet high. The frieze consists of small Corinthian columns supporting a series of Gothic arches. Below the frieze is beaded board paneling with intermittent reeding.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. AA-20

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church was built in 1866 in the small town of Jessup. It was constructed on one acre of land deeded in 1865 by Susannah Merritt to Martin John Spalding, the Archbishop of Baltimore.

The following is an excerpt from "A Brief History of St. Lawrence Martyr Parrish:"

St. Lawrence Church was constructed and dedicated in September 1866. The dedication ceremony is described in the following excerpt from the holic Mirror the official diocese newspaper), dated September 29, 1866:

On Sunday last the dedication of the Church of St. Lawrence, at Jessup's Cut, took place under circumstances of a particularly interesting character. A long train of cars, containing the Most Rev. Archbishop Spalding, the Rev. Fathers Gibbons, Dougherty, Weyrick, Berger, Rev. Father Wiget, and the Rev. Father De Wulf (sic), together with about 400 of the laity, left the Camden street depot at three o'clock. They were met at the "Cut" by a large delegation from Washington, and a goodly number of people of the surrounding neighborhood.

Immediately a procession was formed, headed by the venerable Archbishop and clergy. It was truly a pleasing, as well as imposing affair. Arriving at the church, the ceremony of dedication commenced. It was witnessed by the large concourse of people, many of whom were Protestants, with a silence worthy of its imposing character. At the conclusion the Archbishop delivered an address full of interest and beauty.

After the ceremonies closed the people marched to the station and soon reached their homes in safety. The hospitalities of the neighborhood were liberally extended to the guests, by M. Bannon, Esq., E. G. Kilbourne, Esq., and others, and every one returned pleased with his visit to Jessup's Cut.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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"A Brief History of St. Lawrence Martyr Parrish" -no author, 1989.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.047 acresQuadrangle name SavageQuadrangle scale 1:24,000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Wareorganization Anne Arundel Co., Planning & Zoning date July 1993street & number 2664 Riva Road telephone 410-222-7441city or town Annapolis state MD 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Developmental Period(s):** Agricultural/Industrial Transition

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):** Religion/Religion

**Resource Type:**

**Category (see Section 3 of survey form):** Building

**Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):**  
Village

**Historic Function(s) and Use(s):**  
Religious

**Known Design Source (write none if unknown):**  
None

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Description (continued)

Survey No. AA-20

Section 7 Page 2

The window trim has a deeply molded profile with deeply molded rectangular corner blocks. The windows are favrille glass in a diamond-mullioned style with fleur-de-lis at the bottom and top of each window.

The balcony is highly ornamental with Italiante style wood trim (see photographs).

The floor of the church nave has been covered with carpeting -- it is unknown whether the floor is marble. Historic photographs show the chancel floor as white marble with a diamond-shaped black marble pattern.

The ceiling of the nave was lowered slightly during one of the refurbishments. The ceiling is coved above the cornice molding.

Gothic-arched, paneled doors, which are set at an angle, flank the chancel area. The door trim includes corner blocks incised with crosses. The right door leads to the Sacristy which was added in 1949 and the left leads to a small room.

The chancel or apse contains the altar which is made of rose, grey and white marble. The wainscoting in the chancel area is similar to that in the narthex. It consists of a wide band of grey marble above a narrow black slate chairrail molding. Below are alternating panels of rose and grey marble. The center of each panel has a recessed panel of a contrasting color of marble (either rose or peach) surrounded by a narrow molding of white marble.

A large oil painting of the Crucifixion hangs against the back of the apse, over the altar. The painting is of unknown date, artist or origin. Some members of the church are in the process of researching it.

The interior of the church has undergone at least 3 refurbishments: in 1949 when the sacristy was added; in 1966 when the new organ was installed; and in 1977 when new carpets were added, the pews were repaired and restored and the interior was painted.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

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St Lawrence Church, served as a mission church of St. Augustine Parish in Elkridge from 1866 until 1921. During these years additional land was conveyed to the church: in 1889 Elizabeth A. Kilbourne gave 50 acres and in 1906 James Bannon gave approximately 23 acres, half of which was sold the following year.

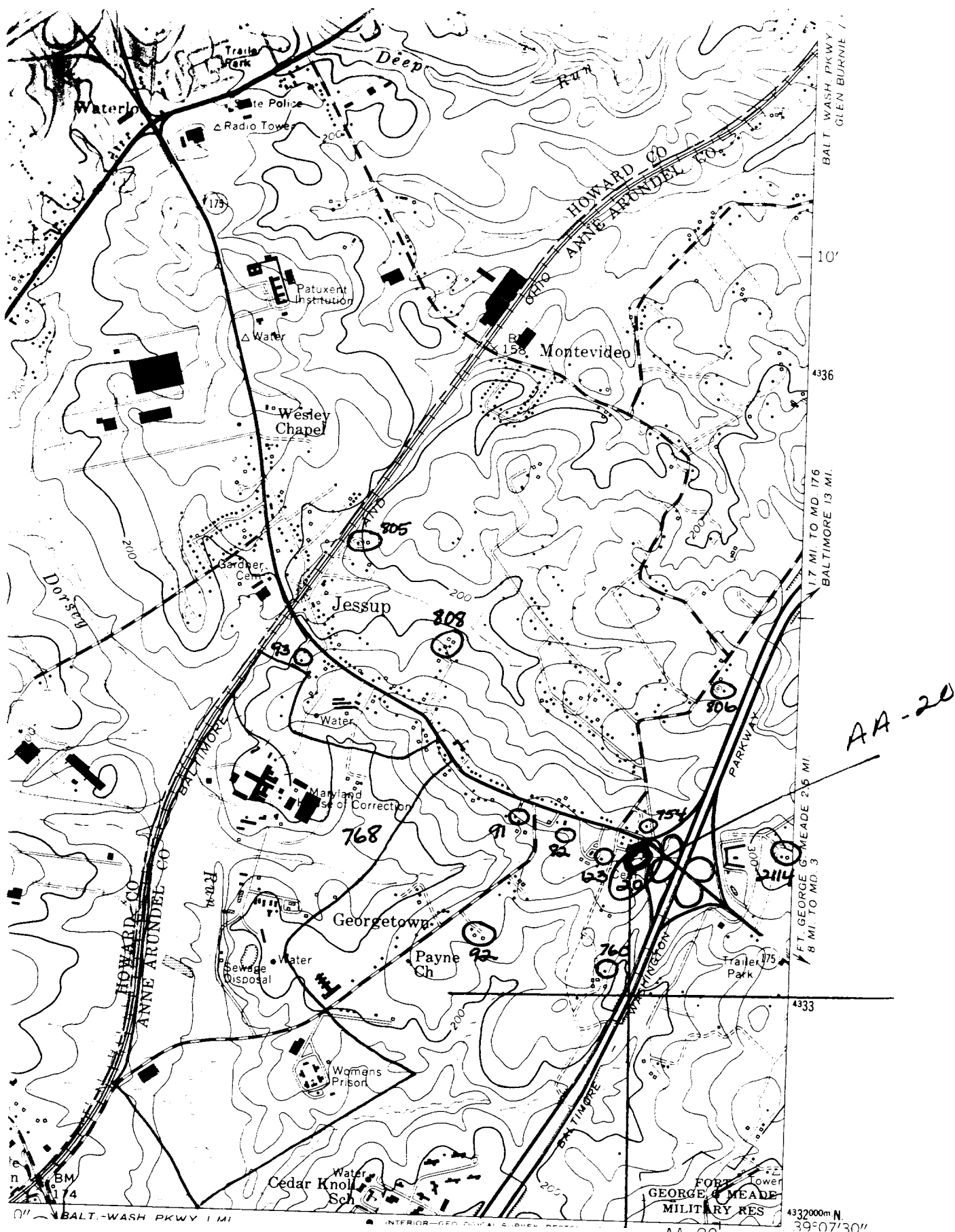
In 1921 the mission church of St. Lawrence was elevated to the status of an independent parish and Father Andrew J. Conlon was appointed as the first resident pastor. At that time a seven acre parcel of property about a mile from the church was purchased for use as the parish rectory. It continued to serve as rectory until 1989, when a new rectory was built on Clark Road in Hanover.

The town of Jessup grew around the intersection of the Old Annapolis Road (Rt. 175) and the Washington Branch of the B&O Railroad which was opened in 1835. It has changed names several times including: Pierceland Station; Hooversville P.O.; Jessup's Cut; and finally Jessup. By the 1870s, Jessup was a typical Anne Arundel County crossroads village consisting of a general merchandise store, blacksmith shop, post office and railroad surrounded by an extensive farming community.

The location of nearby iron ore banks and clay deposits brought a certain level of prosperity to Jessup. The ore was mined for the iron furnaces in nearby Elkridge and Muirkirk.

The surviving buildings in Jessup reflect a higher degree of prosperity than in other Anne Arundel County villages. There are several elaborate examples of Italianate houses built in the 1860s, 70s and 80, e.g. Trusty Friend (AA-123), Asa Linthicum House (AA-91), and Ringgold House (AA-92). Others were torn down or destroyed by fire, e.g. the Charles Feeley House, the Elsey/Jones House and the Smith/Rappaport House (AA-82).

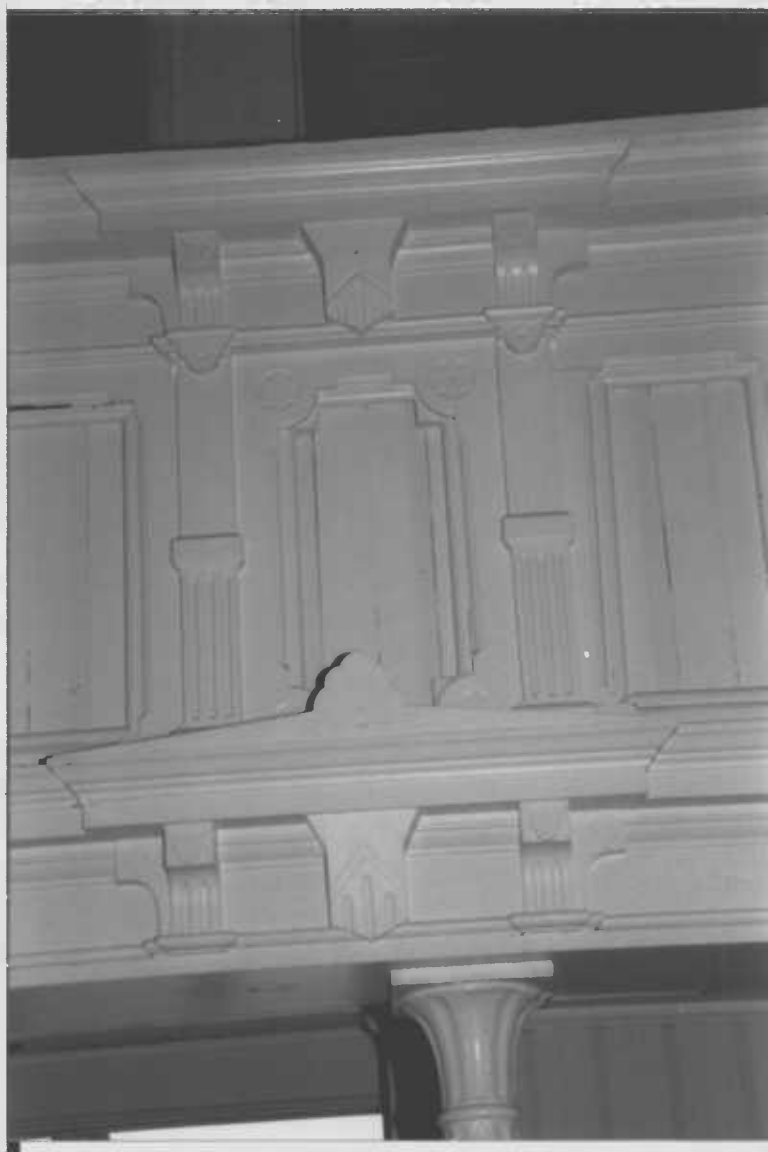
St. Lawrence Church was constructed in the midst of Jessup's architectural heyday, and reflects the same Italianate influences found in surviving neighboring houses.



Savage, MD  
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1957; photorevised 1966 and 1974

St. Lawrence Martyr Parish Church  
 or Church of St. Lawrence  
 2821 Jessup Road  
 Jessup, MD  
 Anne Arundel County, MD





DA-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
Anne Arundel County, MD

Donna Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior: Balcony detail, looking N.

1312



AA-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Anne Arundel County, MD

Conno. Ware

December 1992

MD: SHPO

Interior: Balcony detail, looking N.

2712



AA-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Anne Arundel County, MD

Anna Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior: Balcony detail, looking N.

3912



49 20

St Lawrence Catholic Church  
Anne Arundel County, MD

Donna Ware  
December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior, looking S.

49 12





24-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Anne Arundel County, MD

Gonna wire

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior, looking N.W.

59, 12



AA-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Anne Arundel County, MD

Donna Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior - Detail of wainscoting  
looking W.

69.12



AA-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Anne Arundel County, MD

Bonva Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior: Window & wainscoting detail  
Looking W.

7 g 12



At 20.

St Lawrence Catholic Church

Anne Arundel County, MD

Donna Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior, looking N.

8 9 12





2-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Anne Arundel County, MD

Bonnie Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior, looking S.

9 7 12



AA 20

St Lawrence Catholic Church  
Anne Arundel County, MD

Bonnie Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior, looking S.W.

10912



AA 20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Donna Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior, Altar, looking South

11/9/12



44-20

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
Anne Arundel County, MD  
Donna Ware

December 1992

MD SHPO

Interior: Nave, stairs to balcony  
Looking E.

12 of 12